

St. Jacob Russian Orthodox Church  
Napaskiak  
Alaska

HABS No. AK-80

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3-NAPA,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. JACOB RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HABS No. AK-80

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Location: Napaskiak, south side of Kuskokwim River, Alaska.

Significance: The vitality of the Russian Orthodox religion among the Eskimos is illustrated by recent church buildings such as this.

Description: The main block of the church is 40'-2" x 68'-1", with a 20' x 12' vestibule. The wood-framed building is covered with T1-11 siding. The metal-covered gable roof is topped by three cupolas with onion domes and crosses, and an octagonal belfry on a square cupola, with louvered openings and a fourth onion dome.

The nave has a low flat ceiling. The floor has wall-to-wall carpeting, and the walls are covered with T1-11 siding, as is the iconostas. The amvon is raised two steps and has a semi-circular projection in the center and krilos, ornamented with lively balustrades, on the sides.

History: The church was constructed in 1979. The previous church, also a gable-roofed building with belfry, was demolished in 1989. Built in 1931, it had received an addition to the west end of the nave, and an alteration to the narthex and belfry, ca. 1960.

Sources: Larson, Fr. Nicholai, the priest at St. Jacob's, interviewed by author May 22, 1990.

Oswalt, Wendell. Napaskiak: An Eskimo Village. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1963. Includes a photograph of the previous church before alteration.

Historian: Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, 1990.

ADDENDUM TO  
ST. JACOB RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
Napaskiak  
Bethel  
Alaska

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